

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A fence brace assembly comprising:
 - at least one post, comprising at least one stabilizing surface and at least one securing surface;
 - at least one member, comprising at least one tab;
 - wherein said stabilizing surface comprises at least one opening, and said securing surface comprises at least one tab-slot;
 - wherein said member passes through said opening in the stabilizing surface; ~~and~~
 - wherein said tab engages said tab slots in said securing surface; and
 - wherein said tab is engaged with said tab-slot so as to prevent disengagement of said tab from said tab-slot.
2. (Original) The fence brace assembly of claim 1, wherein said stabilizing surface and said securing surface are both in the outer surface of said post.
3. (Original) The fence brace assembly of claim 1, further comprising:
 - at least one angle brace foot post; and
 - at least one angle brace member.
4. (Original) The fence brace assembly of claim 1, wherein said post is comprised of metal tubing.
5. (Original) The fence brace assembly of claim 1, wherein said member is comprised of metal tubing.
6. (Original) The fence brace assembly of claim 1, wherein said opening corresponds in shape and size to said member.

7. (Original) The fence brace assembly of claim 1, wherein said member passes snugly through said opening.
8. (Original) The fence brace assembly of claim 1, wherein said opening is located directly opposite to at least one tab-slot, so that the longitudinal axis of the member is oriented at an angle of about 90° relative to said stabilizing surface.
9. (Original) The fence brace assembly of claim 1, wherein said opening is not directly opposite, but offset from at least one tab-slot, so that the longitudinal axis of the member is oriented at a non-90° angle relative to said stabilizing surface.
10. (Original) The fence brace assembly of claim 1, wherein the size and shape of said tab-slots corresponds to said tabs.
11. (Original) The fence brace assembly of claim 1, wherein the tab is engaged with the tab-slot in a manner selected from the group consisting of bending, crimping, gluing, welding, pinning, screwing, twisting, bolting, and via a notch in the tab.
12. (Original) The fence brace assembly of claim 1, further comprising at least one recess in the securing surface capable of receiving a bent tab.
13. (Original) The fence brace assembly of claim 1, produced by a process wherein said opening is cut by laser.
14. (Currently amended) A method for assembling a fence brace assembly, comprising:
 - providing at least one post, comprising at least one stabilizing surface and at least one securing surface;
 - providing at least one member, comprising at least one tab;
 - wherein said stabilizing surface comprises at least one opening, and said securing surface comprises at least one tab-slot;
 - passing said member through said opening; and

passing said tab into said tab-slot; and

engaging the tab to the tab-slot to prevent disengagement, provided the engaging is not accomplished by welding.

15. (Original) The method for assembling a fence brace assembly of claim 14, wherein said tab engages in its corresponding tab-slot without requiring welding or additional fastening.
16. (Currently amended) The method for assembling a fence brace assembly of claim 14, wherein the tab is engaged with the tab-slot in a manner selected from the group consisting of bending, crimping, gluing, ~~welding~~, pinning, screwing, twisting, bolting, and via rotating a notch in the tab.
17. (Original) The method for assembling a fence brace assembly of claim 14, further comprising passing said member through said opening at an angle wherein the longitudinal axis of the member is at approximately a 90° angle to the stabilizing surface.
18. (Original) The method for assembling a fence brace assembly of claim 14, further comprising passing said member through said opening at an angle wherein the longitudinal axis of the member is at a non-90° angle to the stabilizing surface.
19. (Original) The method for assembling a fence brace assembly of claim 14, further comprising bending said tab over an edge of said tab-slot into a recess in said securing surface, such that said tab is flush with said securing surface.
20. (Currently amended) A kit for assembling a fence brace assembly having component parts capable of being assembled, the kit comprising:

at least one post, capable of being joined to at least one member;

at least one member, capable of being joined to ~~at least one~~ the post;

said post comprising:

at least one stabilizing surface, comprising at least one opening; and

at least one securing surface, comprising at least one tab-slot;

said member comprising:

at ~~lest~~ least one tab;

wherein said member is capable of penetrating said opening in said stabilizing surface of said post; and

wherein said tab on said member is capable of engaging the tab-slot in said securing surface of said post to prevent disengagement; and

whereby said member may be joined to said post.

21. (Original) The kit for assembling a fence brace assembly of claim 20, wherein said opening in said post corresponds in shape and size to said member.
22. (Original) The kit for assembling a fence brace assembly of claim 20, wherein said tab-slot in said post corresponds in shape and size to said tab.
23. (Currently amended) The kit for assembling a fence brace assembly of claim 20, wherein the tab is engaged with the tab-slot in a manner selected from the group consisting of bending, crimping, gluing, welding, pinning, screwing, twisting, bolting, and via rotating a notch in the tab.
24. (New) The fence brace assembly of claim 1, wherein the tab is not engaged with the tab-slot by a weld.
25. (New) A fence brace assembly comprising:

at least one post, comprising at least one stabilizing surface and at least one securing surface;

at least one member, comprising at least one tab;

wherein said stabilizing surface comprises at least one opening, and said securing surface comprises at least one tab-slot;

wherein said member passes through said opening in the stabilizing surface;

wherein said tab engages said tab slots in said securing surface; and

wherein said tab is curved or bent.

26. (New) The fence brace assembly of claim 25, wherein the curve is approximately for 90 degrees.

27. (New) A fence brace assembly comprising:

at least one post, comprising at least one stabilizing surface and at least one securing surface;

at least one member, comprising at least one tab;

wherein said stabilizing surface comprises at least one opening, and said securing surface comprises at least one tab-slot;

wherein said member passes through said opening in the stabilizing surface;

wherein said tab engages said tab slots in said securing surface; and

wherein a continuous terminal portion of the member, said portion extending from a tab, is disposed within the post in substantially continuous contact with an inner surface of the post.